

## Remarks

Claims 25-29 stand rejected under 35 USC §112. Claims 1-6, 9-10, 12, 17-19, 21-24 and 35-43 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b). Claims 1, 17, 21, 25-28, 32, 35, 38 and 41 have been amended. Applicants assert that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

## 112 Rejections

Claims 25-29 have been rejected under 35 USC §112 because claims 25-27 depended upon themselves and claim 28 and 29 depended from claims 25-27. Claims 25-28 have been amended to reflect proper dependency. As such the rejections under 35 USC §112 can now be withdrawn.

## 102 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 9-10, 12, 17-19, 21-24 and 35-43 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ballard (US Pat. 4,937,825). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Office Action rejects the above claims by asserting that Ballard teaches all the elements of the claim. However, amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 32, 35, 38 and 41 recite various combinations of elements not disclosed by Ballard. For example as recited in claim 1, Ballard does not disclose a system for network element fault information processing using an interior network element in conjunction with an edge switch that provides a first point of access to a network for a customer. Ballard does not disclose the use of trap logs to alarm a management station for specified network events. And Ballard does not disclose storing the network element fault information into a network fault file wherein the network fault file contains network element fault information collected over a rolling time period. Therefore, amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 32, 35, 38 and 41 are allowable for at least these reasons.

Claims 1, 17, 21, 32, 35, 38 and 41 also recite similar elements. For example amended claim 1 recites, in pertinent part,

“a system for network element fault information processing, the system comprising...receive a network element identifier from a user, the network element identifier corresponding to the network element...”

Ballard does not disclose receiving a *network element identifier from a user*. Ballard explicitly teaches a system that receives “requests [from a user] in their generic form in a *non-device-specific format*. (Col. 2, l.17-18; Col. 3, l. 54-56). The system of Ballard requires an intermediate control facility to convert the non-device-specific request to a network element identifier. Therefore, Ballard does not disclose all of the elements of amended independent claims 1,17, 21, 32, 35, 38 and 41 and amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 32, 35, 38 and 41 are allowable over Ballard for at least this reason. Dependent claims 2-16, 18-31, 33-34, 36-37, 39-40 and 42-43 depend from allowable amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 32, 35, 38 and 41 and are also allowable for at least the same reason.

#### 103 Rejections

Claims 32-34 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Ballard in view of Mayo (US Pat. 5,751,965). The Office Action has asserted that combination of Ballard and Mayo teaches all of the elements of the claims. However, for the reasons noted above for the §102(b) rejections, Ballard does not teach all the asserted elements of amended independent claim 32 and a careful reading of Mayo does not make up for the deficiencies of Ballard. Therefore the combination of Ballard and Mayo fail to teach all of the elements of the claim. As such, amended independent claim 32 is allowable for the same reasons. Dependent claims 33 and 34 depend from allowable claim 32 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Furthermore, claims 7-8, 16, 20 and 30-31 in addition to independent claim 32 that have been rejected under 35 USC §103 depend from either allowable base claims 1 or 17 and are also allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

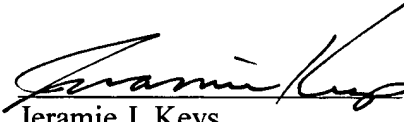
#### Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-43 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeramie J. Keys  
Reg. No. 42,724

Withers & Keys, LLC  
P.O. Box 71355  
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355  
(404) 849.2093